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## 2003 Legislative Update

*Dear Neighbors,*

*It is said that only when we are challenged do we realize our full potential.*

*Our state has faced an economic downturn the likes of which we haven't seen for years, maybe decades. Guiding us through these economic choppy waters has been challenging for the Legislature as a whole; there have been many ups and downs. Yet I still believe that a more responsive and responsible state government will be the end result in the long run.*

*Out of these tough times come new ways of addressing our problems – armed with new reforms and accountability measures, streamlined procedures, and attention to details, we are striving harder than ever to provide better service to Washingtonians at a better price.*

*Your involvement in the process is equally important in seeing us through this. Working with and listening to people in our community is where I find novel approaches to old problems. Dealing with such enormous issues also makes it hard sometimes to connect with the people who are affected most by decisions made in Olympia.*

*That is why I've sent you this newsletter. My hope is that it helps you better understand what lies ahead, and how we can work together to accomplish what's best for both the 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and Washington State.*

Mark Miloscia

State Representative • 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

### Keeping sex offenders out of our community

After working with many concerned citizens and city officials, I am happy to report that we were successful in our efforts to keep the siting of a sex offender halfway house out of our community.

Granted, state law mandates that we must provide secure facilities to individuals who have served their sentence yet are still unable to re-enter society. However, I along with many other neighbors fought the proposal by the Department of Social and Health Services to locate them at the Peasley Canyon site. We made our stance clear to the department: that our community is not an appropriate site.

Peasley Canyon is a heavily residential neighborhood in Federal Way's annexation area, and home to families, public schools, home schools, school bus stops, day cares, churches, parks, wooded areas, and other areas where children and families are active. The area lies in an unincorporated island that does not have adequate police service and is not easily accessed by fire and emergency services.

I do believe that we need a safe and secure location for these individuals. But I'm happy that I was able to help convince DSHS that Peasley Canyon is not the right place for them.

### Keeping Boeing in Washington

Boeing and Boeing families are vital to our community, and we are doing everything we can to make sure they stay a vital part of our future. That is why winning the national competition for the construction of the new 7E7 is so important. It is projected that the project will generate between 73,000 and 151,000 family-wage jobs in Washington over the next two decades. Gov. Locke and lawmakers from across the political spectrum worked on incentives this year to encourage Boeing to build the 7E7 here. We passed all of the key elements of the priority legislation Boeing requested, including:

- The transportation package
- Higher education enhancements
- Building code changes
- Unemployment insurance rates
- Shoreline management adjustments (specifically, the Everett pier)
- A \$3 billion tax incentive package

The estimated \$3 billion in total tax incentives **will only be provided** if Boeing chooses our state to build the 7E7. This sounds expensive, but not when you consider that final assembly of the 7E7 would generate as much as \$540 million in added state revenue *each year*. We're doing what we can to keep Boeing's future a part of our future here in Washington.



# State Rep. Mark Miloscia

## 2003 Legislative Update

### House Democrats create task force to address human services

A nationwide economic slowdown over the last few years has left states \$150 billion in red ink. Consequently, over half the states cut eligibility for public health insurance for 2003; over a third did for 2004. The ones most affected by these cuts will be children and lower-wage families.

To address this problem here in Washington the House Democrats have created a new task force named CARES, which stands for Compassion, Accountability, Reform, and Economic Security. Given the current budget shortfalls, this task force will put a premium on combating poverty, health, and family issues with innovative approaches that deliver services in the most cost-effective way.

I'm happy to have been chosen as Vice-Chair of the CARES Task Force. I have always been a staunch advocate of reforming government and have introduced several successful oversight and accountability measures to increase governmental efficiency. I hope to bring the same focus on openness and efficiency to the human services issues this task force carries out.

### Making Higher Ed attainable for everyone

Being a father of three kids, I am very concerned about the soaring cost of higher education and what that means for the students and families struggling to make ends meet. It's no longer enough to get a high school diploma; a college degree is the only way to provide economic security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

According to a new study by the College Board, a non-partisan organization responsible for administering academic tests such as the SAT, college tuition costs now eat up about 19 percent of a middle-class family's income. As a result, students are facing either limited access because of shrinking enrollment, or an impossible debt load if they're lucky enough to graduate. When this happens, we not only jeopardize their future but the economic future of our whole state.

To help find a solution to this escalating problem I'm working with the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board. This group is looking at what we can do to address not only the soaring costs of post-high school education, but accessibility and training issues as well. It is my hope that we will find answers to:

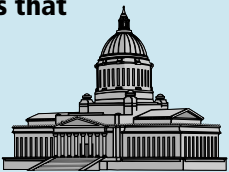
- Improve college participation
- Provide additional capacity
- Improve responsiveness to workforce needs, especially:

- Teachers
- Nurses
- Engineers/computer scientists
- Basic workplace skills (especially young adults)
- Enhance continuing professional education
- Improve performance of high school students (particularly math)
- Decrease disparities across the state

### Remember, you're always welcome to contact me

Whether you have a problem with a state agency or have questions or ideas for legislation, if there's ever an issue I can help you with please feel free to call, email or write.

**If you're also interested in receiving e-mail on the latest legislative news, join our 30<sup>th</sup> District Citizens' Internet Legislative Network by emailing my legislative assistant, Pam Zielinski at [zielinsk\\_pa@leg.wa.gov](mailto:zielinsk_pa@leg.wa.gov) with your contact information and any issues that interest you.**



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